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                           FEBRUARY 9, 1990

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                      THIS WEEK - by Ron Kovacs
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                      Z*NET BBS (201) 968-8148

Another set of VIDI-ST pictures will follow the release of this weeks
issue, look for the ATARI STE pics this weekend. These pic accompany
the article on the STE in this weeks edition.

The REVOLUTION continues and we have Part 19 of the continuing series
included with an update from our REVOLUTION category on the BBS. Please
send us your results of letters sent during the first weeks. We
received a response from CBS this week and in a future edition we will
reprint the entire letter.

On to another topic, please wait a few days before downloading version

number software from the services. There has been a recent update going
on with a few releases during January. To avoid wasted download time,
wait a few days before you download the obvious ones to insure the
bugs have been worked out. We have had a problem keeping up with the
latest versions because of the rapid updates.

Thank you for the positive comments about last weeks edition.

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                    Z*NET NEWSWIRE - ATARI NEWS FIRST
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ST EMULATOR FOR AMIGA:
Bulletin boards have turned up an import from Australia that purports to
be a working ST emulator for use on Amiga computers. A set of serious
looking intro screens go on about the program and how to use it, and how
Atari can't touch them for doing it "because we aren't charging for it".
Despite our best attempts, we were unable to get past the point at which
the ST is to be inserted. We are checking on some evidence (perhaps
circumstantial) that the program actually creates a virus on the ST
disks. Unfortunately, I was unable to get a copy of the disk. One can
guess it is intended to do more than churn the disk drive, and if it
worked at all we'd like to see it. Let Z*Net know if you have further
details on this program. Atari will certainly be less than amused if
the files being distributed with the "emulator" in fact contain the
copyrighted code from TOS... and despite the claims to the contrary,
distributing pirated information for FREE does not make it OK.

NEW VIDI-ST REVISED HARDWARE:
Recent shipments of the very popular video digitizer VIDI-ST have
included not only a the updated software (Version 1.28b is the most
recent), but also a new VIDI-ST hardware unit. The cart-port device
looks almost the same as older units, but features not one but two
external controls. Formerly an internal adjustment, Brightness now has
an external knob. Also, the Contrast control has a much wider range
than older units, allowing a full range of contrast from very flat to
solarized. The original VIDI cart was often higher in contrast than
desired even at the minimum setting. Other changes in the clearly
redesigned circuit board cause far better horizontal stabilization,
removing all traces of the "single line jitters" that sometimes plagued
the older device. The result is that the newer VIDI-ST is better all
around. No information is available from ROMBO at this time to suggest
that any hardware upgrade policy exists.

MONOCHROME MONITORS ARRIVE BUT...:
Many dealers across the USA received Atari Monochrome Monitors this
week, after months of unavailability. Unfortunately, most dealers
received about half of the number they had back-ordered. When at least
one dealer called Atari to ask when they would be getting more, the
answer was only maniacal laughter from Sunnyvale. Apparently it is a
popular question, and no good answer as yet exists. While its great to
get some after so long, the waiting list for more SM124 monitors
continues to grow at most dealers... often preventing the closing of
sales on complete computer systems.

LASERBRAIN 1.31 RELEASED BY ATARI:
The long awaited release of LASERBRAIN, an Epson printer emulator for
use on the Atari SLM804 laser printer, is finally here. Version 1.31
was released by Atari reps on GEnie Telecommunication service on
Wednesday, February 7, and probably appears on all the major networks by
now. Laserbrain is a German product, released now in the USA as
FREEWARE by Atari. It allows a user to address the Atari Laser as
though it were a plain Epson standard pin-type printer, ideal for use
with programs that have no specific Laser configuration. Laserbrain has
been waiting for release for nearly a year according to some accounts,
and version 1.31 fixes a number of bugs of earlier (import) versions.

QUICK ST II TO COME:
Darek Mihocka is said to be only 3 weeks away from the release of a
major upgrade to QUICK ST, his software screen accelerator. Currently
available commercially as version 1.8, Darek says the 2.0 is even
faster, finally surpassing TURBO ST in all categories while retaining
greater compatibility and smaller RAM consumption. The new version will
also have a few extra surprises like a choice of (and editable) fill
patterns for the desktop, internally redefinable fonts, and more. All
this, and using less than 20K! Watch for an announcement soon from
Darek's BRANCH ALWAYS SOFTWARE.

POSSIBLE FIX FOR PCDITTO II:
Jim Allen of FAST Technology reports that the fatal flaw of the first
PCDITTO II IBM emulator boards has been found. Although PCDII maker
Bill Teal of Avant Garde has yet to comment publicly (nor to answer
support phone lines), the problem may be a simple PAL chip replacement.
Owners who have waited with varying degrees of patience to get what has
ended up being a paperweight so far are less than enthused to consider
themselves "beta testers". Meanwhile, some observers feel that it is
Atari's fault for having so many circuit board revisions. It seems that
the PCDII worked fine on the sample machines Teal used in Florida... but
not on any other versions. Meanwhile, Atari reps say it is absurd to
complain that Atari made continuing attempts to improve their design,
and more absurd to complain that Atari failed to consider and plan for
third party companies that would be making hardware designed to make the
systems do something they were never designed to do in the first place.

5,500 MEMBER ATARI CLUB DISBANDED:
A huge Dutch Atari User Group called SAG (that's Dutch for something
meaning Foundation of Atari Users) is disbanding due to lack of active
members. According to a Z*NET reader in Holland, SAG had a President
who just had his work transfer him to another part of the country, and a
newsletter editor who had to quit due to a serious foot injury.
Suddenly, the 5,500 member club ground to a complete halt, with no one
stepping forward to fill the vacancies. The December 1989 issue of
their newsletter is expected to be their last. (And we complain when we
find it hard to get volunteers out of a club of 30-50 members!)

MEGA STE????:
Developers are said to have been polled by Atari recently as to their
preferences regarding the type of card slot that might be integrated
into a possible redesigned MEGA. Assuming that a MEGA could be built

based on the STE technology, they were asked, which type card would be
preferable: the existing MEGA BUS as implemented in existing MEGA
computers, or a VME BUS that would match the European standard that has
already been adopted for use in the coming TT computer. Most response
has been enthusiastically in favor of the VME system in order to provide
better, cleaner, more compatible additions to all future Atari
computers. A few developers have complained that to abandon the MEGA
bus (even though it is noisey, unique among all computers, and used by
very few devices to date) would be going back on expandability promises
that were made about the MEGA line when it was new. Regardless of the
BUS, the very question give some hope that the two-part case design will
in fact be retained and that the MEGA series will both survive and even
be improved.

PROCOPY V 1.8 RELEASED:
Registered owners of PROCOPY can now get upgrades to version 1.8 for
$13.50. The new version will back up software from ARTWORX and
MicroProse, and even DUNGEON MASTER and OIDS. Successful backup of DR.
T and Three-Sixty software should also now be possible. Contact PROCO
PRODUCTS at P.O. Box 665, Chepachet, RI 02814, or call (800) 843-8459,
(401)568-8459.

"PAY NO ATTENTION TO THAT MAN BEHIND THE CURTAIN...":
A well-known ST columnist confronted a major ST software developer and
importer this week with charges of using someone elses name to leave a
series of messages slapping a competitor on GEnie. Nevin Shalit, writer
for ST-Informer magazine, discovered a series of events and similarities
in messages that led him to believe that BSTONE was in fact GORDON
MONNIER, owner of MICHTRON. The name BSTONE was used in many messages
on GEnie that were outspoken about how bad PCDITTO II was doing, and how
much better the competing Michtron product PC-SPEED was. Nevin
investigated further and found that BSTONE was in fact an free internal
account at GEnie, registered to Michtron. Still more checking resulted
in finding Brian Stone himself, a former Michtron employee who has
allegedly told Shalit that he had no knowledge of any messages and also
had no idea that anyone else was using his old account. Shalit charged
Monnier with deliberate deception, of using the name as a cover to snipe
at his competition without appearing to do so. Monnier responded early in
the fray with a denial, but then added a discussion to the effect of
"but so what if I did do it?". No further comment has appeared from
Monnier since more of Shalit's investigation results were posted. Most
subsequent commentary in the message area seem to agree that if Shalit's
charges are accurate, that Monnier was clearly wrong to use the false
ID. Some have asked GEnie to take steps to assure that readers can know
when they are conversing with people on official internal accounts in
order to more properly weigh the content and affiliation of the writer.

Z*NET EUROPEAN UPDATE

ATARI STE IN EUROPE:
Compatibility problems surround the STE. With TOS 1.6 installed in the
machines, GEM applications function properly but many rule-breaking
video games are having trouble running on the new machines. When
copying a disk with one drive by dragging A to B, inserting a write
protected destination disk causes the machines to lock up. A medium
resolution saved desktop boots in low resolution, at every boot, causing
you to force a resolution change each time. MS-DOS disks previously

capable of being read on the ST cannot be read on the STE. The biggest
problem, other then those listed above seem to be games and non game
applications are providing the least amount of trouble. Stay tuned for
more as these problems are addressed!

POWER PACKS:
There are a number of PACKED systems available in Europe, here is a
brief listing of the current models and software packaged with each.
520STFM Super Pack includes 22 software titles, CX40 joystick and
productivity software. The 1040STFM Professional Pack includes; VIP
Professional, Microsoft Write and Superbase Personal. The 520STFM
Explorer Pack includes; one arcade game, tutorial program and desktop
utilities.

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                    Z*NET INDUSTRY NEWSWIRE
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APPLE AND HITACHI SUED:
Gilbert Deitch filed a suit last week against Apple Computer, Hitachi
Sales and John Doe (an unknown affiliated entity, at this time, of
Hitachi). The suit is seeking an undisclosed amount of money for his
client who, in January 1988, sustained serious injuries as a result of
an explosion of his Apple IIc monitor. At the time of the accident,
the unknown Deitch client was operating the "Hello" program on his Apple
IIc computer. While working on this program the screen went blank.
Referring to Apple IIc Owner's Manual, he turned the computer off as
instructed, waited ten seconds, then switched it back on. At this time
a high-pitched, whining noise was heard and immediately,
without warning, the monitor's glass screen exploded. The force was so
violent that glass blasted into the air striking the user in the face,
throwing him backwards, knocking him unconscious.

COMMODORE INTRODUCES AMIGA UPGRADE:
Commodore early this week announced the introduction of a new Amiga
upgrade program offering A1000 owners the opportunity to upgrade to any
A2000 series machine at a substantially-reduced cost. The offer, which
runs now through March 31, was developed to encourage the large base of
Amiga 1000 owners to upgrade to higher-performance Amiga 2000 series
machines which are designed to take advantage of future product
improvements and software offerings.

Amiga Upgrade Pricing - Amiga 1000 owners can upgrade to the following
Amiga 2000 series machine for the prices indicated:

  Machine   Price
Amiga 2000 $ 999 + trade-in
Amiga 2000HD $ 1,599 + trade-in
Amiga 2500 $ 2,999 + trade-in

NINTENDO HIJACKED:
Nintendo products made by Acclaim Entertainment was hijacked this week
in New York City. A shipment of more than $1 million worth of
"IronSword" game cartridges and "Double Player" remote controllers for
the Nintendo Entertainment System was insured, and abducted by four men

who were later captured by police.

HAYES SCHEDULES CONFERENCE:
Hayes plans to hold a developers conference March 27-29 at Atlanta's
Doubletree Hotel covering "innovative applications software in the next
decade and beyond." Topics include the Hayes standard AT command set,
control of X.32 (Dial X.25) and FAX, "AutoStream" (multi-session serial
interface protocol), AutoSync, Enhanced Serial Interface and OS/2
drivers for very high speed serial ports, ISDN and more. The fee is
$295 per person, which covers presentations, workshops, conference
materials and meals. Registration deadline is March 12. For more
information, contact Pat Cook, conference coordinator, (404) 449-8791.

TANDY DEBUTS 5 COMPUTERS:
Tandy unveiled five new computers and a dot matrix printer. The new
machines include:
 -:- The 2800 HD laptop with a retail price of $3,499.
 -:- The 4033 LX priced at $5,999.
 -:- The 4016 DX priced at $2,999.
 -:- The 2500 XL and 4016 SX, comes at a suggested retail price of
     $1,499. The 4016 costs $1,999.
The new printer is the DMP 240, a narrow-carriage 24-wire dot matrix
with color printing capabilities and speeds up to 192 characters a
second. The retail price is $549.95 and $29.95 for an optional four-
color ribbon.

ALAN J. PERLIS DEAD AT 67:
Alan J. Perlis, the Yale University professor best known for his work in
the creation of the ALGOL programming language in the late 1950s, has
died at 67. Considered a leading scholar and researcher in programming
language design and development of programming techniques, Perlis was in
1966 the first recipient of the A.M. Turing Prize, the highest award of
the Association of Computing Machinery. Perlis is survived by his wife,
Sydelle Gordon Perlis, a daughter, two sons and two grandchildren.

****
                   ATARI'S NEW STE - AN INSIDE LOOK
****
by John Nagy   Reprinted from the February Z*NET MONTHLY Newsletter

[Editor's note: Although much of the information presented in this
 article has been available as parts of several previous reports, it is
 pulled together in this overview, which was presented WITH PICTURES of
 the inside of the STE in our February issue of Z*NET International
 Newsletter Supplement for user groups. Look for the pictures in DEGAS
 files, available on GENie, CompuServe, and better BBS systems, to be
 released about the same time as this issue of Z-NET ONLINE.]

I have seen the future of Atari St computing... and so has most of the
world. Unfortunately, the STE computer (E for "enhanced"), which will
replace the 520STFM and 1040STFM altogether, is still not available in
the USA. FCC testing is continuing and the latest revision is expected
to pass in the coming 6 weeks. When it does pass, the STE will

hopefully end the ST machine shortage that is frustrating many US
dealers. Contrary to common speculation, Atari is NOT putting the US
STE on "hold" in order to sell old stock 520 and 1040 machines - there
aren't any of them left. When available, the one-meg STE may be at or
below current 1040STFM prices, and offer more features. In Canada, the
1040STE retails at $900 (US equivalent) but sells for as little as $560
in US dollars. That's without monitor, of course.

Through reports from European magazines, Canadian users, Atari tech
reports, and my own hands-on experience, we can give you this look ahead
on what to expect from the STE, inside and out.

The STE will come in at least three flavors... with 1, 2, and 4 meg or
RAM. I had the opportunity to see and use several versions including
the "4160STE" four meg unit. The most welcome feature to many will be
the single-inline memory modules ("SIMMS") that allow users to increase
memory as easily as plugging a card into an existing socket inside the
computer. A complete disassembly appears not to be required, as the RAM
cards have a separately removable shield just under the top panel. Keep
in mind that the shield may be revised before the FCC is satisfied.

The STE machines look just like the "current" STFM machines. The sole
clues to the differences inside are the pair of extra joystick jacks on
the left side, a pair of phono jacks just under the power switch on the
back, and of course, the little "E" instead of the little "F" or "FM" on
the model tag on the top.

Inside, the changes are more apparent, with the RAM sockets the most
obvious. The keyboard and power supply look to be basically unchanged
(sorry... many people hate the keyboard feel and the underside mouse/
joystick connectors!), but below it is a totally new motherboard. Many
fewer chips are being used, with new VLSI superchips reducing costs,
power draw, heat, assembly time, and repair problems. Jim Allen Jr.,
maker of the TURBO 16 accelerators board for the ST and MEGAs says "This
is how the ST should have been built in the first place." However,
Jim's speedup board will NOT operate in the STE as currently designed,
because the STE has the new SQUARE 68000 CPU chip. Turbo 16 is designed
to solder on top of the more common rectangular 68000. Be assured, Jim
is working on alternatives. Similar problems face other internal
upgrade manufacturers (PCDITTO II, PC-SPEED, etc.)

A pleasant sight on the new STE board is a BLITTER chip. These never
made it to the ST series, but MEGA users have enjoyed the screen speed
increases of this chip for some time. The TOS in use is version 1.6,
which gives the features of 1.4 PLUS new possibilities. Also, the STE
has an RF Modulator and composite video output. Although present on late model
1040ST's the ability
to run a TV as a monitor is a welcome feature. Output is at least a
good as the older units, and perhaps a bit cleaner.

New features and capabilities include:

* Digital 8-bit sampled pulse-code stereo audio output. Feeding out the
  two jacks in the rear, the new sound is dramatic. Music programmed
  for this feature sounds as good as most low-mid synthesizers, with
  full orchestration possible. The sound is DMA controlled so it uses
  no CPU time, allowing complex sound and complex video without
  interaction.

* Two extra joystick/lightgun/paddle/etc. jacks. The 15 pin connectors

can each accommodate three control devices, allowing up to EIGHT
simultaneous players on games designed to use them and the "old"
joysticks... more, if someone uses the keyboard too.

* 4,096 colors available. Although the color resolution and number of
  colors at once remains the same as on the ST series (4 in medium, 16
  in low resolution), the STE has 16 levels of each "pure" color (red,
  green, blue) instead of just 8. Thus, 16 shades of exactly the same
  color can be generated, a dramatic visual improvement. Through fast
  palette shifting, graphics can appear much more varied and vibrant,
  and gradients can be much softer. Games can look a lot better. It
  has been suggested that SPECTRUM can and should be revised to display
  4,096 colors at once, which will make for incredible pictures!

* Hardware screen scrolling and control. Fans of the 8-bit Atari
  remember the ease of use of graphics modes that allowed "display
  lists" and instant screen scroll. Well, it's back on the STE! It can
  do fast scrolls in any direction without cpu-hungry memory moves.

* TOS 1.6. It appears to be almost completely compatible with TOS 1.4,
  allowing "old style" sound and color schemes to run as expected, but
  timings show it to be up to 10% faster in screen drawing. However, it
  takes a larger memory block now, up to 256K from the old 192K. An
  unexpected plus appears to be a pre-planned compatibility with 68030
  CPU chips. Could a "030" TT-like upgrade be possible in the future?
  If so, computing speed could be increased many-fold but hardware TT
  features probably cannot be added.

* User memory upgradable to 16 MEG. Using (expensive!) 4-bit wide
  SIMMS, you can plug in as much memory as you can afford.

There is no "MEGA Expansion Slot" inside the STE, but it is said that
the hardware will allow use of the JRI GENLOCK video system without the
circuit modification needed in MEGAs. The standard CART slot remains,
and all scanners, emulators, and video digitizer carts tested worked
properly.

Also not available in the STE is a direct method of "overscan" picture
display. This is the ability to have picture elements reaching the
edges or the screen and beyond, as we are used to on television sets.
This may be the single largest complaint of those who hoped an
"enhanced" ST would provide a more competitive answer to the Amiga for
video and desktop presentation applications. (Through software
"tricks", some programs are able to place graphics in the edge "dead
zones", but these generally eliminate compatibility with external video
standards.)

Minor bug reports are abounding in Canada and overseas. Many stem from
the fact that a proper CONTROL.ACC control panel is not yet available.
Using the old ST file only allows addressing the normal 512 color
selection. Worse, each time you call the panel, ALL of your colors
darken by a single intensity value! Another bug makes the STE boot into
LOW resolution regardless of directions from a valid DESKTOP.INF that
tell it to start in MEDIUM. However, the problems are being addressed
by Atari and developers. The very few programs (including the popular
POPULUS game) that conflict with the new TOS will almost certainly be
adjusted quickly. Expect things to be pretty well settled by the time
you can buy the STE in the USA.

Software that supports the new features of the STE are few and far

between so far. A few demos and a single game from Atari show great
scrolling, fab music, and stunning graphics. "WHITE WATER MADNESS"
looks and sounds wonderful while otherwise being a rather average game.
Some developers may be reluctant to program screens for yet another
palette and sound system, since compatibility with the existing ST user
base is critical. But, just as many fine games feature both internal
and MIDI sound outputs, the better programs of the future will include
support for both 512 and 4,096 color selections and digital sound.

In short, the STE is indeed "enhanced". It is a clear evolution in the
development of the ST series, without the sting of a higher price.


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                    THE REVOLUTION! - PART 19 AND UPDATE
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by Donald A. Thomas, Jr.
(c)1989   ARTISAN SOFTWARE

(This is PART 19 of a series of articles published and distributed by
Artisan Software. Please feel free to copy and distribute this article
as you please provided you include all unedited text. Also feel free to
upload to boards and communication services. These articles are
designed to entice you to take constructive action. Write to involved
parties and tell them how YOU feel about the subject.)

I recently had a conversation with a publisher of a leading publication
in the Atari community. He has requested that I update the status of
The Revolution to date and address an issue which some Atari users have
brought to his attention. On occasion, users ask why Artisan Software
charges $6.00 to have a REVOLUTION HANDBOOK mailed to their home and why
Artisan Software charges a whopping $22.00 for rubber stamps as
described in week three of the campaign.

Let's first look at some statistics:

Of the hundreds of users represented by formal registrations, 22 have
made any contribution at all with their registration. Three of them
have paid for a rubber stamp. Approximately 70% of the stamps
manufactured for Artisan Software to date have been given away free
either because the recipient has not paid an invoice or it was sent no
charge as good will for the campaign. One such stamp, for instance,
went to Mr. Bob Brodie of Atari Corporation.

Let's look at some facts regarding the $6.00 diskette:

  1) Artisan Software is a small company. It's small because it is
     making an attempt to exclusively support the Atari market; unlike
     Epyx and Activision. The cost of a diskette, mailing, handling,
     etc. is higher for the smaller volume and is all incorporated into
     the $6.00 charge.

  2) A good deal of the sales of The REVOLUTION HANDBOOK are to users'
     groups and dealers who are selling the disk at a nominal charge to
     members and customers. They are able to make their $6.00 back in
     just a couple of sales.

  3) A lot of manhours went into the writing of The HANDBOOK and into the

development of the custom reader program as well as an ongoing commitment to the support articles such as this one. The collection of $6.00 per diskette does not approach compensation for the time and energies devoted to the project.

4) To initiate the cause, Artisan Software committed over $600 in printing and mailing costs to users, developers, dealers and manufacturers of Atari products. This cost has yet to be repaid.

5) Over $300 went into an attractive membership card which is sent to every registered member whether they make a contribution or not.

6) Every support article written to date has been tagged with information of alternative means to receive a copy of The HANDBOOK; most at no or little charge. The efforts and costs to distribute these articles allow for no direct compensation and are posted at the on-line services' standard rates.

7) Complete hardcopies of the book are issued to specific targets upon request at no charge.

8) Every letter received at Artisan Software about The REVOLUTION which requests a response is sent one within 48 hours. The time, material and postage provide for no compensation.

9) To date, the costs of involvement in The REVOLUTION have been subsidized by the profits made on the commercial software Artisan Software sells.

10) Finally, Artisan Software is a company in business to make money. If a couple of bucks are eventually made for selling a well presented promotional campaign, I personally feel much better than I would if I were to make money selling Bibles.

Let's look at some facts regarding the rubber stamp.

1) The REVOLUTION HANDBOOK encourages the use of a rubber stamp on all your outgoing mail. The HANDBOOK expressly encourages you to have one made. They can be obtained from any local office supply store and most printing shops. Although Artisan Software is NOT a rubber stamp company, we will provide a custom, logo embossed stamp for $22. This price was derived from the price to have a single custom stamp made during the time The REVOLUTION HANDBOOK was written. To that cost was added anticipated mailing costs, materials and a service fee large enough to discourage direct sales so that users would go to their local sources.

2) Due to the size of the demand of the CUSTOM stamp (which can not be purchased anywhere else), Artisan Software will sell stamps for only $10.50 each with a minimum order of 5 or more and sent to the same address. Please add a $3.50 shipping and handling fee to orders at this price.

I will always answer inquiries as openly and honestly as possible. I would like to encourage all persons who have comments or questions to write to me. I will answer your letter personally.

To order a stamp or a handbook or to submit your registration for a membership card write:

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                     ARTISAN SOFTWARE
                       P.O. Box 849
                 Manteca, California  95336
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Please Note: Although Revolution members are included in all future
mailing lists from Artisan Software, Artisan Software product flyers are
not included in correspondence exclusively related to The REVOLUTION.
They are also not sent with the membership cards. If you desire this
information, you must ask specifically for it.


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************************************************************
                        OTHER NEWS
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I know that Mr. Sam Tramiel has reportedly received hundreds of letters
from REVOLUTION members and contributors. Although no conversation has
ever taken place between myself and Sam, I know many people who should
know about The REVOLUTION have become aware of the program. Both, Bob
Brodie and I, are keeping tabs and dropping hints on every occasion
possible.

Z*NET publisher, Ron Kovacs, tells me his bulletin board is full of
REVOLUTION news and support. Feel free to get on-line with him at (201)
968-8148. I encourage you to make your written contributions. Ron
takes the best of the best and incorporates them into his (this)
publication.

MEGABYTE COMPUTERS of North Texas called recently to express their
"thanks". They have been great supporters of The REVOLUTION from the
beginning and named as a source of the Handbook in every support
article released. According to Herb at Megabyte, people have called
from all across the country and business has picked up. MEGABYTE
COMPUTERS deserves recognition for their efforts above and beyond to
serve their customers.

I probably should not mention the dealer by name, but just days after
releasing Part 18 of REVOLUTIONARY CONCEPTS, I noticed this dealer has
cleaned up his act considerably. The owner was in shirt and tie, all
stock was organized and well displayed (unfortunately a lot was not
priced), and professional demos were in use. I even heard the owner
call to his employees while I was there and remind them that they were
needed to serve customers; not play in the back. It was not for my
benefit. They do not know me by sight. It may be presumptuous to
assume that the impressive improvements over the last couple of weeks
were to any credit to The REVOLUTION articles, so I won't. The fact
that the dealer dressed his store to look professional is a credit to
him regardless of what inspired him.

I wish to express my thanks to the dozens of BBS operators across the
country who have invited my participation on their boards. Please...I
can not afford to participate on them all. Manteca, California is not
close to any of them. To keep up with ideas, news and comments, refer
to GENIE, DELPHI, COMPUSERVE and Z*NET magazine. Many BBS operators
have formed a network to download these files and post them on their
boards, so you will likely find information on them. If not tell them
to "Get with the program!".

I have paid a professional artist to create a reproduceable black and
white of The REVOLUTION logo. Anyone who can front the investment to
T-shirts, or better yet, high style polo shirts or sweats can contact

me. We have a ready market and I would like to make these things
available as inexpensively as possible to the Atari community. I am
prepared to offer the rights to do so an an attractive rate to keep the
costs down. This can also apply to any other item such as buttons and
posters too.

The average age of registered participants seems to be about 30 years of
age. They range from as young as 12 to as mature as 65. Most are
professionals; some being doctors, attorneys, etc. One of our most
aggressive members is 15 years of age. Jonathan Baily loves to chat
with REVOLUTION members and has called me on numerous occasions. He has
made many positive and well thought out suggestions and even thought as
much to wish my family a nice holiday on Christmas. Anyone who would
like to communicate with a solid member who has a lot of good ideas,
please feel free to contact Jonathan at (313) 274-7588.

People have been sending various documentation files and support
programs. Please be aware that Artisan Software is now equipped with
8-bit equipment to receive such things in that format.

In conclusion of this entry, let me express my sincere gratitude for the
extensive support all of you are giving. It pleases me to keep you all
as informed as time and expense allow, but it is all of you who are
making the progress that we are in our efforts to revitalize a positive
and product approach to marketing Atari computers.

P.S. I have been using the Portfolio extensively now that I can
transfer files directly with my ST. It's easy through a null mode, the
serial interface and a terminal program which Atari has placed in the
public domain. I encourage you to spread the word and visit your local
dealer for a demonstration or to get the proper cables. If you need to
know the dealer nearest you, please call (800) 443-8020 Monday through
Friday and press "1".

For information on how you can "JOIN THE REVOLUTION" and actively
support the exposure of Atari computers, send $6.00 to ARTISAN SOFTWARE,
P.O. Box 849, Manteca, California 95336. An ST/MEGA compatible disk-
based HANDBOOK will be rushed to you by return mail. The HANDBOOK is
also available from ST INFORMER, CURRENT NOTES, MEGABYTE COMPUTERS
(Hurst, Texas), COMPUTER STUDIO (Asheville, North Carolina) and as a
download from COMPUSERVE, GENIE, DELPHI and the Z*NET ONLINE BBS.

~~~~~~~> REVOLUTION UPDATE

Message : 587 [Open] 2-08-90 12:39am [From the Z*Net Online BBS]
From   : Ken Hartley
To   : All
Subject : Revolution update...
Sig(s) : 2 (The REVOLUTION!)

I recently received my letter back from 20/20 about what the REVOLUTION
had done.. Basically what they said was that with them having to chose 3
topics/show and with the 'high volume' as they put it of letters they
receive-- they would not be able to follow up our story right now..

****
                     SUPER KIDGRID - Press Release
****

S U P E R   K I D G R I D
For Creative Graphics Design

Program by: D.A. Brumleve
Educational Consultant: M.L. Marks

Super Kidgrid, offering unique experiences in patterning, shapes, and
color, has the ability to provide both entertainment and challenge to
your child. Super Kidgrid offers an introduction to the world of
computer graphics design while developing and supporting creative
thinking skills.

Super Kidgrid features:

 <> installation program allows parent or teacher to choose options to
    match the developmental level of the child
 <> program grows with the child
 <> SAVE/LOAD 1, 5, or 10 pictures; saved pictures and program load
    automatically
 <> print color-by-number versions of the onscreen pictures for
    embellishment with crayons or markers
 <> fourteen colors to choose from in making designs
 <> twelve built-in samples may be altered or copied
 <> easily scroll both forward and backward through samples and pictures
 <> familiar, consistent kidfriendly program environment makes learning
    a snap and promotes independence

Package includes:

 <> specially-labelled green original disk
 <> extra iconographic labels for the child's copies--instantly
    recognized by non-readers as representing Super Kidgrid
 <> simplified children's manual
 <> full instructions for parents and teachers

Recommended for Ages 3-11
Minimum Requirements: Color Atari 520ST Computer with Single-Sided Drive
Printer Must Accept an ST Screen Dump if Printing is Desired
Program Not Copy-Protected (In fact, owners are encouraged to make
multiple copies for all children in their same household or school
building!)

Now shipping for US $25 from:

                        D.A. BRUMLEVE
                        Super Kidgrid
             P.O Box 4195 / Urbana, IL 61801-8820 / USA

                  For MasterCard or Visa orders,
                call (217) 337-1937 business hours, or
                  send the order form printed below.
_____

ORDER FORM

SHIP TO:_____

        _____

        _____

```
AREA CODE & PHONE:_____
(Please give us your number in case we need to contact you concerning
 your order.)


ITEM: Super Kidgrid
QUANTITY:___
PAYMENT METHOD:
     Personal Check / Money Order / MasterCard / Visa


If MC/Visa:


CARD NUMBER:_____
EXPIRATION DATE:___ ___
BANK NUMBER:_____
SIGNATURE:_____


Send completed form to:


                    D.A. BRUMLEVE
                    Super Kidgrid
          P.O. Box 4195 / Urbana, IL  61801-8820 / USA




**********************************************************************
                 SILICON EXPRESS PRODUCTIONS
**********************************************************************


This text file may be freely distributed as long as this header remains
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This schedule is presented for your convenience through the courtesy of
Fantasy-Island-BBS, Oregon, Ohio, 3/6/12/24 bps, 419-691-6459 24 hrs.,
7 days, Atari ST support, 67 meg.

1990 schedule for Silicon Express computer shows.
All comments/questions may be addressed to:

     Silicon Express Productions
     50 East Mill St.
     P.O. Box 850
     Pataskala, Ohio 43062
     614-927-9555
     800-999-6868



The following is a complete schedule as of this date (1-31-90) for the
entire year of 1990.


Feb-3-Monroeville PA.
Al Monzo's Palace Inn, Rt 22 & Rt 48, Monroeville, PA.

Feb-4-Youngstown, OH.
Stambaugh's Auditorium, 1000 5th Ave, Youngstown, OH.

Feb-10-Indianapolis, IN.
Murat Temple, 510 N. New Jersey St.
```

Feb-11-South Bend, IN.
Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph Street

Feb-24-Columbus, OH.
Aladdin Temple, 3850 Stelzer Road

March-3-Cleveland, OH.
Strongsville Holiday Inn, Rt. 71 & 82

March-4-TOLEDO, OH.
Meadowbrook Place, 4480 Heatherdowns

March-17-Indianapolis, IN.
Murat Temple, 510 N. New Jersey St.

March-18-Middletown, OH.
D.A.V. Hall, 4610 Trenton-Franklin Rd.

March-24-Monroeville, PA.
Al Monzo's Palace Inn, Rt. 22 & 48

March-31-Youngstown, OH.
Stambaugh's Auditorium, 1000 5th Ave.

April-1-Dayton, OH.
Hara Arena, 1001 Shiloh Springs Rd.

April-7-Grand Rapids, MI.
Stadium Arena, 2500 Turner NW.

April-8-TOLEDO, OH.
Masonic Auditorium, 4645 Heatherdowns

April-21-Nashville, TN.
State Fairgrounds, Wedgewood & Rains

April-22-Knoxville, TN.
Knoxville Convention Center, 525 Henley St.

May-5-Cleveland, OH.
Medina Co. Community Center, 735 Lafayette St.

May-6-Pittsburgh, PA.
Holiday Inn, 4859 McKnight Rd.

May-19-Dearborn, MI.
The Fairland Club and Manor, 19000 Hubbard Dr.

May-20-Columbus, OH.
Aladdin Temple, 3850 Stelzer Rd.

Sept-8-Grand Rapids, MI.
Stadium Arena, 2500 Turner NW.

Sept-9-TOLEDO, OH.
Lucas Co. Recreational Ctr., 2901 Key St.

Sept-15-Dearborn, MI.
Fairlane Manor, 19000 Hubbard Dr.

Sept-16-South Bend, IN.
Century Center, B hall, 120 S. St. Joseph Street

Sept-22-Dayton, OH.
Hara Arena, 1001 Shiloh Springs Rd.

Sept-23-Columbus, OH.
Aladdin Temple, 3850 Stelzer Rd.

Oct-6-Lansing, MI.
Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave.

Oct-13-Louisville, KY.
National Guard Armory, 4815 Progress.

Oct-14-Indianapolis, IN.
Murat Temple, 510 N. New Jersey St.

Oct-21-Grand Rapids, MI.
Stadium Arena, 2500 Turner NW.

Oct-27-Youngstown, OH.
Stambaugh's Auditorium, 1000 5th Ave.

Oct-28-TOLEDO, OH.
Lucas Co. Recreational Ctr., 2901 Key St.

Nov-3-Monroeville, PA.
Al Monzo's Palace Inn, Rt. 22 & 48

Nov-10-Norwood, OH.
Quality Hotel Central, 4747 Montgomery Rd.

Nov-11-Lexington, KY.
Holiday Inn South, exit 104 off I-75, 5532 Athens Rd.

Nov-17-Dearborn, MI.
Fairlane Manor, 19000 Hubbard Dr.

Nov-18-Dayton, OH.
Univ. of Dayton Arena, 1801 Edwin C. Moses Blvd.

Dec-1-Lansing, MI.
Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave.

Dec-2-Grand Rapids, MI.
Stadium Arena, 2500 Turner NW.

Dec-9-Columbus, OH.
Ohio State Fairgrounds, 632 E. 11th St.

Dec-15-TOLEDO, OH.
Sea Gate Hall, 401 Jefferson Ave.

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**************************************************************************
                    ST STACK - PD / SHAREWARE UPDATE
**************************************************************************
```

by Alice Amore


```
"""""""""""
```
SONNETS.ARC (version 1.0)   <---------   !This file is SHAREWARE!
Programmer: Albert Baggetta

Feeling poetic? This is a demo of SHAKESPEARE, a database of sorts,
containing all 154 Shakespearean sonnets (although only 15 sonnets are
available in this demo).

SONNETS runs in low res only. I had problems running it on my hard
drive, but it ran well enough on Drive A:. Each 14-line sonnet fits
nicely on one screen, with room left over for buttons and boxes. Script
files can be created by tagging specific sonnets and mouse-clicking your
way from the first-tagged to the last-tagged (a boon to Shakespearean
scholars). A search feature lets you find strings (up to 8 letters),
and word/count and sentence/count is displayed as each sonnet is loaded.
You can scroll ahead to the next sonnet, or back to the previous one.
Also, a short "bio sheet" about the Bard is available by clicking on the
right mouse button.

Printer options allow you to print the results of your search strings,
or to dump complete sonnets to the printer.


```
"""""""""""
```
BUDGET.LZH   (version 1.0) <---------   !This file is SHAREWARE!
Programmer: Robert M. Balay

"Budget Maker" is an extremely simple-to-use budgeting program for
people who find budget calculations about as exciting as dust balls.
The clearer your expenses (no high financiers need apply), the better
you'll do with this program.

Quite simply, your income is recorded, and your monthly expenses are
deducted from it. If you have very few financial responsibilities in
life, you can learn quite quickly what's left over at the end of the
month after you've paid the bills. You can print out your monthly
budget, and blow the "money remaining" on a new piece of computer
hardware.

As Shakespeare would say:
"Profitless usurer, why dost thou use
  So great a sum of sums, yet canst not live?"


```
""""""""""""""
```
MUSICALC.ARC (version 2.0)
Programmer: Steve MacMillan

This version of MUSICALC has been completely rewritten. In a nutshell,
MUSICALC will perform time-based footage calculations. Written in GFA
BASIC, it has been designed to keep track of a variety of musical
calculations, and should be of interest not only to musicians, but also

to recording engineers, video or film users, and home recording studio
owners. This version of MUSICALC has been completely rewritten.

MUSICALC's features include:

 - Numeric calculator
 - Time-based calculator
 - Footage calculator
 - SMPTE locator
 - Stop watch
 - Metronome
 - Delay chart
 - Enter tempo
 - Enter time signature

Footage entry is broken down into feet/frames or feet/inches. Frames
will work for 16mm, 35mm, or 70mm film, and inches will work for 7.5,
15, or 30 inches-per-second tape.

MUSICALC's most significant feature is its ability to calculate bar (or
beat), SMPTE time, and footage offsets referenced to a starting SMPTE
time.

""""""""""""
STENO101.ARC
From: Strata Software

This is an upgrade for registered users of STeno 1.01. It contains a
patch program to perform the upgrade. (The upgrade is also available by
mail.)

Some of the new features in version 1.01 include:
 - paragraph reformatting
 - redesigned printer set-up
 - accessory menu lists file currently in memory
 - "save settings" command
 - word-sized cursor movement and text selection
 - set accessory buffer size and drive for the cut/copy/paste file
 - delete a line
 - cut/copy now always available
 - bugs causing the mouse to disappear have been fixed
 - improved handling of large files
 - no longer locks up when run from shells

""""""""""""
LYNXIMGS.LZH
Courtesy: Z-NET

Here are two digitized pictures of the LYNX. They were taken from the
front and back covers of the LYNX handout at the recent NAMM show.
These were scanned at 150 DPI to keep them of a manageable size.

""""""""""""
PCD_PCSP.LZH
Courtesy: Z-NET

Here's an amazingly clear pic (digitized with VIDI-ST, in DEGAS format)

of two of the latest hardware PC emulators for the Atari ST, PCDITTO II
and PC-SPEED. A 3.5" floppy disk is also in the picture for size
comparison purposes.

"""""""
VDAY.ARC
Uploaded by: M. Lapchick

Do you need to make a Valentine's Day card or letter in a hurry? Here
are ten .IMG files of hearts, Cupids, flowers, and the like. Styles
range from cartoony to Victorian.

"Be, as thy presence is, gracious and kind,
  Or to thyself at least kind-hearted prove." - William Shakespeare

****
                       PD PUB - by Mark Quinn
****

    File name: RECIO_DM.LZH   Author: Software Seasonings
Program name: RECIO   File type: Utility

Software Seasonings' RECIO, billed as a fast font editor, looked
surprisingly good on my monochrome screen when I first booted it
(comments like "Oooh, that looks surprisingly good" could be heard from
the entire 'staff' of two).

After digging out our copy of "PrintMaster" to load one of its fonts
into RECIO's editor, I "messed over" some of PM's built-in fonts. Funny-
-my altered characters didn't look as good as the originals. Hummph.
Then I went about creating my own font, and never discovered the correct
procedure for getting the editor "set up". No matter: there must be a
way, and it wasn't covered in the help file anyway. If I played with
the menus for another hour or so, I would probably get the hang of it,
and I would be able to use the editor for a "fresh" font as I did with
one of PM's fonts. What really happened was that I created a "dummy"
font file, and when I clicked on it and attempted to "open" it so that I
could work on my new font, the filename just sat there and stayed
highlighted. Hummph.

I experienced one minor difficulty, probably due to my not having a
manual. I loaded then attempted to edit one of the fonts, and clicked
on "EXI" in the editor, and couldn't get OUT of the editor and back to
the main screen. As I said, this must be due to the reality that I am
just "browsing" the program.

And let me tell you, this program is a browser's delight. The more
areas you click on, the more sub-menus pop up. Since a lot of the menu
items are of the "GRB" (huh?) and "BLOCK OPS" variety--with no
explanation given in the accompanying text file--I can't tell you a
whole lot about how the program is set up. This much I can tell you:
You will like what you see. Just don't become blinded by the pixel
dust.

    File name: QLOCK.ARC   Author: Ignac A. Kolenko

Program name: Quick Lock   File type: Utility

You watch in horror as a friend accidently deletes fifty four items in a
subdirectory on your hard drive, and scream "I wish I could have write-
protected the $@#%! thing!" as the numbers count down to nothingness.
Now you can, and you can READ-protect a partition, too. Now that source
code or that short story outline you've been quietly nurturing will
remain on your drive as you left it.

Drives A through P are supported. You can write-protect all the drives,
lock all the drives (both read- and write-protect them), unlock all the
drives, save your password (for access to the program itself) and
configurations, load them, call up a help screen, change the password,
exit the program in such a way that the password is required to call it
up again, etc.

I did it. I write-protected my "C" partition, then tried to save the
new configuration. It wouldn't save. I never figured out how to get
around this, or if I should have taken the "Quick Lock" title more
seriously than I initially did.

Either way, this is one HECK of a piece of freeware.

"Quinn's Quickies"

ACC11.ARC
 Clear out your "C" directory of all those .ACC files, and put them in
 their own folder.

FLASHFMT.LZH
 Supposedly formats disks that can read/write faster than TWISTER
 format. May have some bugs. Use at your own risk.

INTRUDER.LZH
 When your little sister hits those keys, she'll be greeted with a siren
 and some scrolling text. You must reboot to free up your machine.

POLICE.LZH
 Mono only, from Germany. The same idea as INTRUDER, but with a better
 alarm and some graphics.

QUARTET.ARC
 A demo of a "16 KHz, 4 channel, sampled sound sequencer". Make sure to
 put the "Quartet" files (one through three) in a folder called
 "QUARTET". (I discovered this BEFORE I read the description. Big
 deal, eh?)

TI_GDSWD.ARC
 The PD topical index, for use with the earlier upload of the GODSWORD
 program.

****
                 ATARI 8-BIT - PURCHASING A USED ATARI
****
by Elliott John Coerper
Osan AFB, Korea (MVACE)

Before I begin my article, I want to publicly state that I'm 100% behind
The Revolution. Since I'm in the military, I like to put military type
names on everything. For example, you probably have heard of vaporware,
you know, software that always vaporizes when you reach for it. Well, I
call it Stealthware! Because you never see it and when (or if) you do,
it has a HUGE price tag. Knowing all that, I have called The Revolution
"Operation Bold Thrust, code named The Revolution" (Bold Thrust because
we are boldly thrusting Atari into the mainstream, and every military
operation always has a Code Name).

Anyway, onto the article... As I've said in previous articles, I've
been known to purchase several used Atari computer systems. About every
six months or so, I place advertisements on bulletin boards and on the
radio. I want to see if there's any economical systems available. So,
this article is designed for someone who is looking to purchase a used
Atari.

Where should I place my ad?

BULLETIN BOARDS

I'm not talking about electronic bulletin boards. I'm talking about the
ones you find in laundromats and grocery stores... the ones with 3x5
cards tacked all over them. You'll be surprised at how many responses
you can get from a simple 3x5 card.

When making your ad, never hand write one out, it doesn't look
professional. Always type it or better yet, use your computer to make
it. To capture their attention, put a Print Shop Graphic on it (lately
I've been drawing cartoons on mine). I found that more people will
respond if you give them tabs (with your phone number on them) to pull
off. Try to place the card at eye level, they're read first. And
finally, always take them down once they are no longer needed. It's a
pain in the coon-dingy (Korean for butt) to call someone, only to find
out they purchased one over two weeks ago.

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN BOARDS

Most Bulletin Boards have a swap-shop section where you can place your
ad. When purchasing used Ataris I've had better luck with IBM boards.
Most former Atarians who purchased a clone no longer believe that there
old Atari has any value, thus I've obtained them at reduced prices.

It's better to word your ad like this: "Does anyone have an old Atari
they want to get rid of? I desperately want to get my kids off of my
computer. And I don't like Nintendos!" By doing this, it keeps down
the wise cracks and I usually get legitimate responses.

RADIO STATIONS

Many small towns or small AM radio stations have a free advertising
program called "Swap-Shop" or something similar. They're usually heard
twice daily in a Buy-Sell-Trade format. They have everything from cats
to clarinets to turtles to tubas and everything else in between.

What, you don't think they work?! Where I work, everything totally
stops when Paul Harvey is on and when Swap-Shop is played. Seems
everyone wants to get a good deal on a used car or VCR.

THRIFTY NICKEL

Where ever I've been stationed (Wisconsin, Illinois and Florida) there
has always been a Thrifty Nickel (some places they're called Trading
Post or some such). It's a free Want Ads Newspaper that comes out on
Thursday or Saturday. Everything can be found in them, cars, houses,
trailers, I've even seen a guy try to sell his wife! If you don't have
one in your area, I guess you'll have to use your local newspaper.
However, I've never had the same amount of luck with them as I've had
with the Thrifty Nickel.

What's in an Ad?

If you're selling, always talk about the advantages, while if you're
purchasing, talk about the disadvantages. Sounds like common sense, but
I saw someone trying to sell a ST were the ad read "I've finally
purchased an MS-DOS Clone and I don't need my old ST....." (Sounds like
I should purchase a clone and not the ST.) The funny thing is he wanted
top dollar!

The following ad brought me over 55 responses:

_____

                          ATARI COMPUTERS

Have you recently upgraded to a more powerful computer? Or by chance
did someone give you an Atari 8 bit that you have laying around
gathering dust? Need some cash? Then give me a call...

_____

Notice that I talked down the 8 bit. I don't want them thinking they'll
get a lot of money for it. Remember, I want to pay as little as
possible. I was taught, "Buy low and sell high". Hmmm, maybe I should
buy stocks? 8^)

After having so many people respond, I started giving a standard
statement before I would listen to them. I said:

"Before you tell me what you have to sell, let me give you a brief
history of Atari. Way back in 1980 Atari sold the 800 for around $600-
$800. However, around 1985 we had the Great Computer Crash. Several
companies didn't make it through those tough times, Adam, Texas
Instruments and Timex-Sinclair to name a few. With the 16 bit computers
starting to dominate the market 8 bit prices went through the floor. As
a matter of fact, I have an ad here in Antic that shows a 800 for only
$49 and it's reconditioned with a guarantee. Do you still want to tell
me what you have for sale?"

Many go into shock, most hang up. I had one lady (and I use that term
loosely) who cussed me out. I had one guy who never even listened and
wanted to sell me his Atari 400 and a 810 for $500. I hung up.

OK, now that you have placed an ad and had a few people respond, it's
time to find out what you should be paying. Let me say this, the
following prices are not written in stone, they are just a guideline
that I use.

How much should I pay?

Atari 400: I was given one once, I made it into a lamp.

Atari 800: It's worth about $20 if it's in very good condition. In other words, Defender was never played on it. I still have one around, it's the only computer designed to play M.U.L.E..

Atari 1200 XL: In very good condition, it's worth about $40. This is my favorite Computer, but only when it's upgraded to 256k. I only wish there were more upgrade options available for it.

Atari 800 XL: For the standard 64k version it's worth about $45. For an upgraded one, I have been known to give as much as $75. I usually always have several of these sitting around. It is my favorite computer to pass along to people looking at Nintendos.

Atari 130 XE: It better be in near perfect condition. If it's old, I don't need the hassle of owning it. I've had to many keyboard problems. However, when it's in good condition it's worth between $40-$75.

Atari Game System: I've only come across one for sale. I gave them $25 and they were happy. I don't know if this was good or bad, but I sold it two days later for $50.

Cassettes, 1030 Modem and the Plotter: I'll try and make a night light out of them, if I'm given them.

Atari 1050 Disk Drive: If all you have is a standard 1050 disk drive it's worth between $40-$75. If it's a Happy Drive, then it's worth about $100. The Happy drive is the most popular drive I've sold. I have even arranged for friends to pay as much as $159. Why is the Happy 1050 so popular? Because, it has an IBM converter program that allows you to convert MS-DOS files to Atari and vice versa.

Indus GT drives: I consider the Indus GT the top of the line drive. It's worth anywhere from $50 to $150 depending on the condition and if its complete (carrying case, software...).

All other drives: They're worth no more than $50.

Touch Tablets: I try to get as many as possible. This is a favorite item especially if you have kids. They run anywhere from $5.00 to $20.00.

Printers: I hate to say it, but I'm not that much of a fan of Atari printers. Since the 1025 cannot do graphics, I consider it useless. As for the 1027, the only value in them is because they are portable. Never, ever, have I paid more then $20 for one.

Printer Interfaces: I only wish I could find one for sale. Sorry.

Software, Pirated: Many people try to make there computers look more attractive by giving a bunch of free software with it. However, usually it's mostly pirated software, thus the only value is a blank disk (about 10 cents). I've had some real cads get mad at me, "Don't you know how valuable these programs are? If you had to purchase them, it would cost over $300!". If the only selling point is Pirated Software, then there is no selling point.

Software, Masters: Sometimes, I do get Masters when purchasing systems. As a matter of fact, this is how I build up my Master Collection. Some of the Masters I get are very good, but I can only pay (at very best) one fifth the going market value. If it's a "Dead Master" I only give

twenty-five cents. What is a "Dead Master"? HomePak, Salmon Run, Scott
Adam's Adventure, Sparta DOS....

The problem with used Masters is, most companies will NOT transfer
ownership. This means when (or if) you need an upgrade, you have to
purchase a new copy. I've written off to several companies requesting a
reduced price upgrade, normally I never get an answer. Only "Rubber
Stamp" offered me an upgrade, and for ONLY $5.00! Nice to know there
are still a few EXCELLENT companies out there.

Well, there you have it, a brief look at the used 8 bit market.
Remember, keep the faith, support The Revolution, and always talk up
Atari computers.

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